

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD



GENERAL CHANG'S GIFT BIBLES AND TESTAMENTS

*"People's Country, Fourteenth Year. This under all Heaven is the greatest classic."**"Chang Chih-kiang."*

SEAL

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A China Number

IT is unusual to devote the bulk of an issue of the RECORD to any one Agency or country; all the more so when that country had been prominent in the preceding issue. But the wealth of material in manuscripts and pictures which has come to hand since the March issue went to press, and the great significance to the world of what is happening in China, are ample justification for making this a China Number.

Puzzling Figures and Significant Developments in China

By the Rev. Carleton Lacy, Secretary, China Agency

OUR circulation figures for the year are somewhat puzzling. Apparently there is

an immediate cause and effect relationship expressed in the serious decrease in the sale of whole Bibles. The largest orders for Bibles have come from mission schools and from students. Many mission schools have experienced a reduction in enrollment. Others have discontinued required curriculum Bible study. The normal amount of Christmas purchasing of the better books as gifts was noticeably diminished this season.

Non-Christian students have not been buying in any large numbers. Consequently, every sub-Agency reports a decrease in the sale of whole Bibles. In the face of this fact, it is perplexing to find that there has been an increase in sales from the Shanghai office, at the very center of the disturbance.

Similar surprising figures are found in the reported circulation of New Testaments. The sub-Agencies experienced the same general reduction in sales, except at Peking; while the Shanghai office reports a large increase. This, however, was entirely due to the large orders from the Pocket Testament League which were filled in the early months of the year. In this case the Peking increases furnish the surprise.

What will prove more astonishing to readers not intimately acquainted with China—and to

many who are—is the phenomenal increase in the circulation of Scripture portions. With anti-Christian and antiforeign attacks becoming commonplace; with riots, boycotts, warfare and banditry and the resultant interruption of transportation bringing distress in all sections of the country, we come to the end of this terribly historic year and find that our circulation of Scripture portions has increased over one million above that reported



OUR COLPORTEUR CHOW LIEN CHING
Showing off with pride his new Gospels
to friends in Chengtu

ed for the previous years. Our presses have turned out over four million of these precious books, and 3,733,538 are reported as having been put into actual circulation.

This would seem to support the claim that the majority of Chinese are not personally vitally interested in the world-stirring events that have been taking place. Millions are not intelligently aware of these events. Away from the main arteries of trade and the large commercial and political centers, the vast agricultural and laboring population is neither anti-Christian nor antiforeign. There is, however, a steadily developing interest in larger spheres of life. There is a steadily grow-

ing reading public. And there is an ever-widening Christian sphere of influence. So, when the paid colporteur or the voluntary lay worker comes into village or market place with the brightly covered little Gospel, he receives a cordial welcome, and his books are more than ever in demand.

Two other factors that share in the responsibility for this expanded circulation may be mentioned. One is the introduction of a new cover design. After long efforts we have produced a four-colored picture cover, reproducing on each of the four Gospels a different scene from Palestine; and on Acts a colored map of Bible lands. There have proved very popular. At the same time the reduced demand for Bibles has released funds that could be invested in the production of these little portions in quantity. Thus we have been able to meet the extra demand created by the novel covers, and a considerably augmented circulation is the result.

Then and Now

Fifty years ago the American Bible Society appointed Luther H. Gulick as its first Agent in the Far East. He came to Japan in 1875 and paid his first visit to China in the beginning of 1876. Previous to his appointment the Society had circulated in China 9,726 Bibles, 79,867 New Testaments, and 1,210,907 portions during forty-two years of activity at a cost of \$215,280. This semi-centennial year—1925—of resident supervision has seen the circulation for twelve months rise to twice that number of Bibles and more than three times the number of portions, with an appropriation of only \$70,000. This sum of money does not represent the net expenditure; for in later years the income from sale of Scriptures has met a considerable share of the production cost, and the Chinese Church contributes annually not a large sum, but sufficient to express a genuine interest in the work.

During the next forty-six years the China Agency was successively under the direction of Luther H. Gulick (1875-1890), L. N. Wheeler (1890-1893), and John R. Hykes (1893-1921). The total circulation for this period was 27,439,160 books, of which 3,052,688 occurred during the first eighteen years of the Agency, and 24,386,472 during the twenty-seven years for which Dr. Hykes reported. In the five years since (1921-1925), the circulation has totaled 13,161,351.

Significant Developments

The story of the American Bible Society in China is not told, however, when mere figures of issues and circulation are tabulated. There are other developments more significant. One of these is the method by which distribution is carried out. For the period preceding Dr. Gulick's appointment, all the work was done under missionary supervision, and to a large extent by the missionaries themselves. Then came the period of employed colporteurs, both Chinese and foreign. With it the practice of free distribution gave way to sales. The next step was the stationing of sub-Agents at distribution centers from which the whole country could readily be reached. The supervision



COLPORTEURS WITH 25,000 GOSPELS IN THEIR BASKETS STARTING OUT ON A WIDE SCRIPTURE-SELLING JOURNEY FROM CHENG TU, WESTERN SZECHWAN

of colporteurs fell largely to them. With financial stringency, the number of paid colporteurs and of sub-Agents was decreased. But new facilities were provided for distributing the Scriptures. The church has grown in strength and numbers, so that voluntary distributors were found in increasing numbers. So, also, were freight and mail service improved so as to enable a few offices to serve very much wider reaches of country.

Our Chinese staff likewise has been strengthened through training, and thus half the number of sub-Agencies are able to handle twice the volume of business that was carried on a few years ago. From every part of the country now we receive requests from Chinese Christian workers, as well as from missionaries, asking for Scripture portions to sell. The churches thus carry a large share of the responsibility for colportage work, reporting their sales to the nearest office of the Society and

requesting more books as each successive supply is exhausted. The Chungking office now for five years has been in charge of a Chinese depot keeper, with only an annual visit from the sub-Agency Secretary. By placing a Chinese assistant in the office at Canton, we have enabled the sub-Agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society to handle our work as well. The distribution in East China, in the

territory surrounding our Agency headquarters, has reached the proportions of a full sub-Agency, and the increased work has been handled entirely by the augmentation of our Chinese office staff. To celebrate the semi-centennial we have added to the Agency staff a Chinese field secretary, who will devote his energies to the cultivation of participation in Scripture distribution by the Chinese Church.

Notes and Comments

OUR cover picture does not tell its whole story. Dr. Frank D. Gamewell, formerly of Peking, China, has kindly supplied the translation of the characters stamped on the Bibles and Testaments. The two little books on either side of the Bible are Testaments. All the 8,000 books had the same characters stamped on them.

Beginning at the column on the right and reading down they are:

MIN KUO SHIH SSU NIEN, literally, "Peoples Country, fourteenth year," or "The fourteenth year of the Chinese Republic."

TZU NAI TIEN HSIA CHIH, and the third line, TA CHING YEH, literally, "This under all Heaven is the greatest classic," or "The World's greatest classic."

CHANG CHIH-KIANG CHING TI, "Chang Chih-kiang respectfully gives this." The square character at the bottom of the fourth line is the General's seal which is used in China to give authenticity to documents.

THE full annual report of the China Agency for 1925 has been issued in a 32-page pamphlet, and will be sent to any desiring it.

A REMARKABLE article appeared in the January, 1926, issue of the *Educational Review* of Shanghai which is worthy of mention in this issue of the RECORD. It was by a Chinese college graduate and professor, Lin Pu-Chi, on the subject "The place of the Bible in religious instruction." The article is noteworthy as coming from the pen and mind of an Oriental Christian, and is also worthy of thoughtful reading for its caliber, clarity, and force.

FROM Shanghai, China, comes this appreciative reference to a Pulpit Bible supplied by our Society to the Shanghai Community Church. It appeared in the Church Calendar:

During the past week a beautifully bound Pulpit Bible has been received by the church as a gift from the American Bible Society through its China Agency. The book is bound in red leather and weighs about ten and a half pounds. It would retail for \$40 gold. The American Bible Society and its China Agency shared the cost. The book bears an appropriate in-

scription on one of the flyleaves. The Rev. Carleton Lacy is the China Agency Secretary. While all of us will appreciate this gift, our pastor is especially thankful. The big, clear-cut type will make it much easier to read than the smaller Bible hitherto used.

ONE of our readers calls attention to an error in the "Tree of Knowledge," on page 48 of the March RECORD, where the shortest verse is given as the 25th of the 11th chapter of John. It should be the 35th verse—"Jesus wept." This friend also refers to the two-word verse, I Thessalonians 5:16—"Rejoice evermore"—with the comment:

These two verses ought to be remembered and practised in everybody's life more or less. If we don't weep sometimes and don't rejoice sometimes, we are not enjoying real life.

THAT our readers are not only thorough and accurate in their inspection of the RECORD, but are thoughtful and helpful in their reaction has also been shown. Referring to notes in the March RECORD, several asked for the address of the writer who sent the "widow's mite," expressing their intention to send some religious literature; and others asked the name of the cripple lad who wants to become a Life Member, with the purpose of helping him accomplish his desire.

WHO wouldn't be cheered by such a message as this:

I want to tell you how much I appreciate the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD. I read every word and find it very interesting, instructive, and enlightening. After reading it, I pass it on, hoping some one else will be interested and will give to the work. I shall soon be sending you my annual subscription.

ONE of our annual donors in Texas has started something new. Partially in memory of his wife and specifically with the purpose of providing the Society with \$100 a year, to perpetuate their annual gifts for distributing Scriptures, he is establishing a permanent trust fund. The first \$1,000 has been received.

Snapshots Here and There in China

WITH its vast territory and population, and with its issues of over 4,000,000 volumes of Scriptures in 1925, the China Agency's report for last year cannot possibly be compressed within the limits of even a whole issue of the RECORD. The facts and incidents from China in other articles of this issue give some pictures. Excerpts from the Annual Report will help to a more adequate, though not complete, knowledge of conditions. While these excerpts are from the sub-Agencies in South, West, North, Central and East China, they purposely deal with different phases of conditions, in order to make the picture more complete. Incidents from each sub-Agency might be duplicated by quotations from the other sub-Agencies, if there were space. For example, while the ferment in Canton alone is reported, similar conditions marked Chengtu; Chungking, Peking, Hankow, and Shanghai; and all the reports closed with hopefulness for the future, particularly with reference to the spread of the Scriptures.

South China

From the South China sub-Agency's report by the Rev. H. O. T. Burkwall, who supervises our work as well as that of the British and Foreign Bible Society, we take two excerpts:

Canton in a Ferment of Trouble

Since June 23, Canton has been in one constant ferment of trouble. The strike and boycott movement has controlled the situation for purposes helpful to the present government's plans. It—the government—has allowed the strike picket corps to have its own way, overruling the police and all authority; except when, for reasons of its own, the government would check a move here or a move there. No apparent principle or rule has guided affairs connected with the strike and boycott. It has been, and is still, most unevenly exercised. Now, exceptions have been made here, and again these have been revoked and put on in another direction. British live in some parts of the city having their servants, while practically next door Americans reside, but can have no servants in their homes. In one district the American and British servants returned to their respective masters and worked on quietly for a time; then they were called out again. The same sort of thing marks the path of the striker committee's doings along other lines. One becomes convinced that the whole business is simply a matter of dollars and cents. Throughout the period of the strike and

boycott there has run a strong note of anti-Christian propaganda.

The Outlook Full of Hope

While the year has been dark and stormy, and it is not passed yet, the outlook for the future in colportage and in the church work is, to my mind, full of hope. The people are not with the governing parties: this is true of the countryside as well as the city. The strike and boycott are managed by a small handful of men, who are making a good thing of it financially. Of this we have ample evidence as well as personal admissions of the leaders. Even the government leaders admit the uselessness of it all. It will, however, take some time to put a stop to the present working. This coming change is now freely discussed and predicted among the Chinese people on every hand. Once there is a return to order, we shall see a great forward movement in Gospel selling and in church work. During the past two months a marked increase in colportage sales is noted. The return of the missionaries to the interior stations has been marked by greatly increased opportunities in mission work in every part of the country. Orders are beginning to come in for Gospels, Bibles, and Testaments.

West China

The Rev. Thomas Torrance supervises both the Western Szechwan and the Eastern Szechwan sub-Agencies, and has so much of interest to report that to make any excerpts is exceedingly difficult. "The Laughing Buddha" is making familiar to many readers the conditions in this region, where its scenes were laid:

The Silent Missionary

The missionaries of all societies in Szechwan have cordially supported our work. A glance at the Bible Sunday subscribers' list shows this. They write that they are dependent on the Bible Society to give the masses the Scriptures, and without them their work would be ineffectual. One of the most cheering incidents of seeing the Seed returning after many days is related by the Rev. B. F. Lawrence, of Suining. He has "a high faith in the printed Word."

"A number of years ago, when I was examining candidates for baptism, I became interested in an aged gentleman among them. I asked him how he came to know Christ. He replied that over twenty years ago, when, at the age of sixty, he was taking the examination for a classical degree in Chengtu, each candidate

(Continued on page 62)

The Oil Merchant of Hankong

By the Rev. Carleton Lacy, Secretary, China Agency



THE OIL MERCHANT OF HANKONG

conference, but I found a man more interesting than any professional preacher. He is an oil merchant by profession, and a witness for Jesus Christ by practice.

When a friend introduced us, the old wrinkled face with its billy goat beard broke into a riot of smiles. "A-ha," he chuckled, and peered at me eagerly through the narrowing slit of his dim old eyes. "So you are a son of the old missionary! Good friend he was to me. Long years ago, in your baby days, our neighbors in these parts persecuted the Christians; they stript me of all I had, and drove me from home. Penniless I reached Fuchau, and your father and another missionary each gave me two dollars. It saved my life. And you are his son! Sit down, and eat a bowl of vermicelli with me."

It was a very humble home and office combined in which we sat and visited. My host told us it was a church as well; for regularly his staff and their families who lived nearby met in the large backroom for prayer and worship. That selling oil was not this man's chief interest in life I learned later. His income is consecrated to the spread of the gospel which brought him life abundant. Generously he has contributed to pastoral support; generously he has contributed to the Christian school. When recently its vice-principal became field secretary for the American Bible Society, this faithful

DOWN on the rugged coast of Fukien rugged characters are formed. Some of these are pirates, finding outlet for their energy in preying on hapless shipping that falls into their hands. My friend Pastor Ting was the son of such a pirate, who by the grace of God became the first preacher of the gospel on the windswept sandy island of Haitang. Now a whole family of these pirate fishermen have become fishers of men. A sister conducts a hospital and clinic. That is the sort of character that grows on that coast.

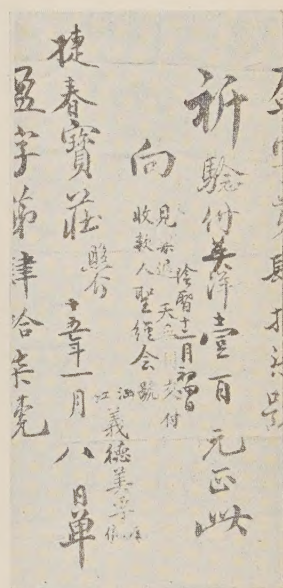
After a week on Haitang with Pastor Ting and a dozen other Methodist sky-pilots, I crossed the channel in an open ferryboat, waded ashore across the tide mud-flats, and called a sedan chair which carried me to Hankong. Here another group of preachers was in

Christian merchant listened to his account of how the Scriptures are being distributed in China, and then handed Mr. Lin a check for one hundred dollars. It is the biggest gift that has reached our office in years. When we wrote to thank him for it and asked for more details of his life story than were in our possession, he replied: "That check was given to distribute Scriptures—not to advertise its giver. I was led to Christ by the reading of the gospel. I want to help others to the same chance. You use the check. I am going to employ a colporteur down here to sell the Scriptures, and shall be looking to you for the books. Yours for Christ's sake."

He did send his picture, which we share with you. There is inspiration in gazing upon his rugged face and thinking of this Christian pioneer who has a Bible in his hand, a church in his home, and Christ in his heart.

OUR Ways and Means Department was cheered and interested by this message:

You will be interested to know that, when I awoke this morning, it was in my mind to send a contribution for some of the church's benevolences, and I asked the Lord to show me in some way where he wished the money sent. Then the postman came with your letter, which I regard as the answer to my prayer.



THE OIL MERCHANT'S CHECK FOR \$100

Made out to the American Bible Society, and dated 15th year of the Republic, first month, eighth day; at the office of the Standard Oil Company, Hankong, Fukien.

General Chang's \$5,700 Bible Order

By the Rev. Carleton Lacy, Secretary, China Agency

THERE are many stories going the rounds as to why Marshal Feng Yu-hsiang resigned and went into Mongolian retirement. Probably none of them tells the whole reason, and each presents some element of truth. One report has it that he could find no other award adequate for the achievement of his general, Chang Chih-kiang in successfully driving Li Ching-lin out of Chinli Province; so he gave up his own office that Chang might be properly recompensed.

At any rate, this explanation gives expression to the high regard in which Feng holds the victor of Tientsin.

Who Is General Chang?

Chang Chih-kiang is not well known outside of China. Four years ago, when he won a splendid military victory, it was his superior, Feng, who was heralded as victor. As a matter of fact, quick action and invincible courage on the subordinate's part alone prevented Feng, then governor of Honan, from being hopelessly bottled up in Kaifong.

Chang himself gives the credit to God, declaring that he and his men had exhausted their supply of ammunition and were a mere handful apparently beaten by overwhelming odds, when they dropped to their knees in prayer and a miraculous dust storm drove the enemy from his position and delivered them from the snare of the fowler.

In the years since, Feng has continued to get the lion's share of publicity both for military achievements and as the "Christian general." As a matter of fact, his armies are full of

Christian officers and men, than whom none is more thoroughly and enthusiastically Christian than General Chang Chih-kiang.

He it was who welcomed so cordially the Rev. Geo. T. B. Davis into his camp at Tungchow two years ago, and participated on Easter Monday in distributing pocket Testaments to 4,000 of his soldiers.

Recently he has purchased from the Ameri-



FORTY-TWO CASES OF BIBLES AND NEW TESTAMENTS LEAVING FOR GENERAL CHANG CHIH-KIANG, GOVERNOR

can Bible Society 2,000 leatherbound Bibles, and 6,000 Testaments, of which a thousand were in leather bindings. The covers are specially inscribed with the general's autographed designation of the book as the world's greatest classic!

A Personal Testimony and a Presentation Statement

Under the flyleaf there has been inserted the photographic reproduction of two statements which General Chang himself laboriously penned. One of these is his testimony to the value of Bible study in his own experience; the other

is his presentation statement, with an exhortation to carry this precious volume and read it daily. In the back of the book is another page to be filled in with the owner's name and pledge to use the Book each day for his moral edification.

The whole story of this purchase is romantic. It reveals characteristics of this military man not generally appreciated. The personal attention which he gave to the details of the contract is rather amazing, in the face of the momentous events of recent months in which he has played so important a part.

The negotiations between General Chang, the Peking depot of the Bible Society, the office in Shanghai, and the various presses continued for several weeks. Terms satisfactory to all parties were eventually agreed upon; but by that time war had broken out in the north, and Chang Chih-kiang was marching on Tientsin. It looked as though the whole matter would have to be held in abeyance. The character of this fighting, praying governor was not sufficiently understood. To the accompaniment of field guns in action and rattling musketry he went over the details of the agreement and

signed the witnessed contract in his headquarters on the battlefield.

Before the signed agreement had reached the Bible Society's office, on the strength of assurances received from an army staff officer, a contract had been given to the Commercial Press, Ltd., in Shanghai, to turn out the job in two months time, and the presses were at work. A telegram came once reporting that the commander of the forces attacking Tientsin had been mortally wounded, and work was stopped. A later



AGENCY OFFICE OF THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY, SHANGHAI
H. WESTERN FRONTIERS, JANUARY 29, 1926

It was during the late summer that a staff officer was sent to the Bible house in Peking to make inquiries as to the possibility of filling a large order, and to secure quotations on various styles of bindings and sizes of books. A series of telegrams followed, and all the information gathered was referred to the general for approval or criticism.

A Labor of Love and Patience

Then it was that he began to prepare the inscriptions, on which he worked for two months before they were ready for the photographer.

message denied the rumor, and the work was resumed. Military and political changes were occurring so rapidly that to many it appeared very unlikely that the books would ever be wanted.

Prompt Payment and Renewed Cooperation

Apparently, there was no change in this Christian general's mind; and when his representative was informed that a shipment of forty-two cases of Scriptures had arrived in Tientsin for the Kalgan governor, he took prompt delivery, freighted them by military train to the Mongolian frontier, and called at

the Peking depot to pay his bill. A few days later a check for \$5,700 was received in the Shanghai office.

An interesting incident occurred in the Peking depot in connection with the making of this big payment. It was late Saturday evening. The military officer sat with our sub-

together in providing for the needs of the people of China.

Many readers who have followed the story of Bible distribution in China will recall another remarkable order for Scriptures which Mr. Strong secured in 1914. It was from Mr. Yung Tao, a Peking philanthropist, who bought

Reduced photographic reproduction and translation of Gen. Chang's own handwritten Tribute to the Bible and Presentation Statement, inserted in the Bibles and Testaments purchased by him for distribution in his army.

Mr. Lacy states that Gen. Chang worked two months making the original.

GRATITUDE FOR THE SCRIPTURES

I thank God because He gave us grace and the will to read the Bible. On reading, I realize that eternal life is in the book; and I also realize that constant Bible reading is the sole weapon to win the battle against sins, and also the only way of being saved. I decided, therefore, to read the Bible over and over again, and also marked it each time, in order to make me to master the book and help me in spiritual cultivation. My heavenly Father! I wish always to think of you as our Lord; and, furthermore, I wish to reckon everything in the world to be excretion and dirt, just like St. Paul did. I do this so that I can have Christ's aid in asking God to assist me so as to show God's might and to accomplish his will in me, and also among all chosen people under his graceful call forever. Amen.

我感謝天父賜給我立志攻讀新舊約聖經
因我覺得天父恩賜我立志成攻讀新舊約聖經
勝惡的唯武器索恩得救的不二法門所以
決心將新舊約聖經讀了又讀熟了又熟以
我的純熟而實我的靈修天父阿我願效救主常
以父的事為念我願效保羅將世界萬事都看
真土為要得着我主耶穌基督天父萬事都看
父的權能成全我的旨意在我身上也在父所
眾選民身上直到永遠達阿們
張之江謹識

我送給你這部聖經並非世俗的應酬實在
著上刻的旨意敬重你的應酬實在
祈禱能離罪惡自然多智慧日查無斷望
個家人離罪惡自然多智慧日查無斷望
國家種族人類萬物都在你的理得有生力
大盼望求此天賜福與你和你的全家得救
永達如阿們
張之江敬贈

PRESENTATION STATEMENT

I present to you this Holy Scripture not because I follow the customary form of presenting gifts, but because I love you and respect you according to God's will. I hope, therefore, you will always have the Book with you, and without one day's separation read it without lapses. If you pray from time to time and keep this matter forever, you will naturally become much wiser and stronger. Thus not only you individually will lose your sins and understand the truth, consequently acquiring eternal life, but also our national race, all human beings, and all creatures may get the hope of being saved through you. I pray God bless you and your whole family forever. I pray this for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Agency Secretary, the Rev. W. S. Strong, counting out the piles of banknotes and chatting regarding the transaction. Then he looked up into Mr. Strong's face and remarked: "You do not remember me, do you? I was your secretary seven years ago when you were engaged in famine and flood relief at Shihchia-chuang." Once more the two men were thrown

5,000 copies of the New Testament and distributed them to as many persons. He is still busy in good works, and has been interested in providing Scriptures for the soldiers.

Now, an even larger purchase has been made for the same purpose—to furnish suitable gifts to numerous friends. This is the largest individual order ever handled by the Agency.

Snapshots Here and There in China

(Continued from page 58)

on leaving the examination halls was presented with copies of the Gospels and another Christian book. Upon his return home, he read the books with great care, and became convinced that they told of the way of eternal life. Now, at the ripe age of eighty-six, he was uniting with the church. It was the Scriptures that led him to Christ; in due time the Word had borne its fruitage."

Among Aborigines

Wedged in between China proper and Tibet are many tribes of aborigines. Our American

Bible Society men have been working constantly among the Ch'iang people of Lifan and Wenchuan. Eight men this year were received into full church-membership as a result of Bible Society work there. Two of them came from a fresh tribe, whose chief is anxious I should go personally and extend the work among them.

A Colporteur Needs and Finds a Good Samaritan

The colporteurs in our direct employ have reported many cheering cases of interest. They, too, have had their difficulties and hard times. One was robbed twice within a month or so. A band of desperadoes suddenly jumped out of the growing rice by the wayside, and ordered him to halt. He had a coolie carry-

ing a load of books, and they doubtless imagined it was so much merchandise. When he told them he had nothing with him but Gospels, some said he was a foreigners' proselyte; others called him a slave that forgot his country. The latter has been this year the favorite epithet the students have thrown at the Christians. They took \$2.50 and 2,000 cash they found in his purse and several spare garments, and let him go. A few weeks later, robbers again took more of his clothes when he was itinerating in the western mountains. Fortunately, he found a good Samaritan, who lodged him a few days and lent him some money to return. With him he left a Testament, and this seems to be opening the heart and mind of his benefactor to the truth, for he has written to me at Chengtu, saying he cannot understand it all. At the first opportunity we intend sending him some tracts and explanatory literature.

Central China

From the Rev. Godfrey Hirst in charge of this sub-Agency, we cull snapshots of conditions which are familiar to other sections of China:

How Explain the Amazing Circulation?

There has been a seventy per cent. increase in the circulation compared with that of the preceding year: this is found to be in portions only. A decreased circulation is found in Bibles, of 2,724 volumes; and in New Testaments, of 11,332 volumes. The actual increase is therefore 493,097 volumes over that of the year 1924.

What can be said to account for the large increase in the circulation of portions? "This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes,"—seems to be the only answer. At one time the number of orders coming in was so small that I reported it to our Agency Secretary, as if to prepare him for a largely decreased circulation; but we of the staff betook ourselves to prayer, and the Lord wrought for us; so that two days later orders for 41,400 books were received. During the height of the tension, Chinese came to the depot for twenty cases of portions to be sold in the city of Hankow; and some time afterwards I was informed that the booksellers were using the anti-Christian agitation as a reason why the people should buy the portions and thus learn what the Christians taught.

Slow Mail

The correspondents' sales require much attention because of the preparation necessary before forwarding to their destination. The customs formalities may take as much as four

days to complete, and we have had a consignment held up for a fortnight or more before freighting facilities were available, both when sending by foreign steamer or Chinese boat. The book post works satisfactorily, but is more costly; and long delays occur before parcels for the more distant parts of this sub-Agency reach their destination. As long as three or four months may sometimes intervene between time of posting and that of delivery.

Bible Sunday

Bible Sunday observance at Juchow, Ho.:—"The last order of Bibles did not reach Juchow; they were left at Kaihsien and destroyed by the robbers. The check for \$5.67 is the collection that was taken in November, the Sunday before the robbers came. We kept Bible Sunday according to the program: at nine o'clock two processions formed, with banners flying and bugles blowing, marching through different parts of the city and the suburbs distributing tracts. Then, at 10:30, we had a big gathering at the church, when several spoke and when this collection was taken. In the afternoon three different bands went out preaching and selling portions. In the evening a very interesting testimony meeting was held."

North China

Our veteran sub-Agency Secretary the Rev. W. S. Strong has been in the midst of the most serious military developments of the year, and speaks with the authority of experience and knowledge:

The Masses Not Yet against Christianity

As yet the masses have not been touched by this crusade against Christianity. Colporteurs and preachers in the country are not interfered with in their work, and hence the sale of portions is still going on in the tens of thousands of towns, villages, and hamlets. During my several visits to the country round about I have found that the common people are absolutely ignorant of the events of recent months, and the only thing they know and care about is how to exist at all. They know all too well the burden of taxation, sufferings under military occupation, recurring floods, famines, and droughts. When in a friendly way they are visited, and spoken to of higher things, I can say from my own experience, the common people hear the gospel gladly.

Visiting the Military Camps

One of the most important pieces of work that I have been able to do during the year has been the frequent visits to the various camps around the city, where at times there have been as many as fifty thousand soldiers. Before the

last war started, I had many opportunities of speaking to these men, who were always very appreciative of my visits; and during the year some 60,000 copies of portions have been sold in these camps. Of course, I had the help of many voluntary helpers from the churches in these visits. At each change of the political situation these men change from place to place, and there will be, as far as I can judge, ever fresh fields for gospel preaching. When the present war around Peking is over, and if no new combination makes necessary the continuance of this internecine struggle for power among the various war lords, I have a promise from General Chang Chih-kiang of free entrance to all the camps around Peking whenever I wish to go there. This will greatly facilitate this work among the non-Christian soldiers, of which opportunity one feels the very best advantage should be taken. It should prove a very fruitful field from an evangelical point of view, and should also tend to peace in general, which is so much needed.

Marshal Feng

There has been, and is still, a great deal of hard criticism of Marshal Feng Yu-hsiang and his strategies, and for his seeming treachery during the present war. It is more severe, of course, because of his confession of Christianity. He is certainly not a professional politician, nor an old-time polished diplomat either in words or deeds, and therefore cannot be understood by such men. I have purposely asked straight questions with regard to General Feng of men in all stations in life, both Chinese and foreigners: though they may criticize the man, yet, asked what they think of his so-called Christian army, I have not found one who has not some meed of praise for his men. Though a vast number are not Christians, seemingly one and all do their best to uphold the high standard expected of them. One may well ask, Why? The answer can only be that the men try their best to follow their leaders such as Generals Feng Yu-hsiang, Chang Chih-kiang, Liu Tsung-lin, and other high officers, who seek to live out their Christian lives before their men.

A Contrast

The city of Tientsin, with another army in control, is in consternation as to what will happen there. They are anxiously awaiting Feng's army, which will no doubt be there very soon; for in that army the populace has implicit confidence. Since Feng's little army first entered Peking, it has never betrayed that confidence; there has never been an untoward incident. Both Chinese and foreigners may mock at Feng's profession as a Christian; but because

of that profession and his exemplification of that profession in a hundred and one ways, it will take a lot of criticism to discredit his Christian activities. If all Chinese commanders were like Marshal Feng, and all soldiers like his men, China would soon enter an era of peace and unity, thanks to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

East China

This sub-Agency having for its headquarters Shanghai, which is also the headquarters for our China work, its conditions and facts are reflected in other articles in this issue. Two excerpts add to the completeness of the picture we would share with our readers:

Shanghai Itself a Receptive Field

Shanghai itself, where armies have wrought their havoc, where riots, strikes, boycotts, and propaganda have rocked the city as no earthquake ever can; where politics, industry, vice, luxury, education, and commerce mix in one great welter, and over two million people of every race and language crowd about the world's second largest port for shipping,—this city has proved a receptive field for preaching and selling the Scriptures. All through the turbulent summer men went about the streets and into the nearby villages, selling to the multitudes of laborers made idle by the strike.

The Winsomeness of the Word

One of our correspondents tells of these incidents:

"A boy of ten years, in one of the private day schools, purchased a portion of Scripture and took it home to his father. The father was very angry, and reprimanded the son for buying a book that was of no value to him, and for spending money lavishly without asking the consent of his teacher and father. After the boy had returned to school, the father examined the book and found so many helpful promises and invitations in it, that he sent word to the school to have the boy find the bookseller and purchase the other three Gospels. Now the entire family is reading the Bible, and they observe the family altar. 'And a little child shall lead them.'

"An old faithful Christian mother of seventy-eight years, baptized by Dr. Hunter Corbett years ago, studies her Bible daily. She rented a chapel in which she worships daily and invites others to converse about the Word of God. She purchased a large-character Bible from the colporteurs, to be used by the evangelist in the pulpit. A non-Christian school teacher in a government day school became so interested in the Bible, that he purchased forty Gospel portions to distribute among his forty pupils. Daily they have Bible-reading and prayer."

Fu An-lan, a Chinese Scholar, and the Bible

By the Rev. Thomas Torrance, Sub-Agency Secretary, Szechwan, China

FU AN-LAN is a man sixty years of age; his name as a scholar is known far and wide; perhaps no other man in Szechwan ranks ahead of him in knowledge of Chinese literature. He has a library of over ten thousand volumes. Whatever be the subject, one has only to mention it to him, and, if it comes within the range of native thought, he will find you the reference to it to read. In seeking for an ancient book of local history, a friend gave me a letter of introduction to him. When I sent this with an inquiry as to his wishes, he asked, "Why does Mr. Torrance want to meet me?" The messenger said that, being a lover of Chinese books, I was anxious to learn from such a man of erudition as he was known to be. "Tell him," he answered, "there is no need to fatigue himself; I will gladly come to his residence; but, if he prefers it, he may meet me here."

He received me with the grace of a prince and the kindness of a friend. The room of our conversation covered many subjects equally interesting to both. He expressed surprise at finding a foreigner interested in his native lore. The pleasure of this stimulated him to satisfy my every inquiry. The book I sought, alas, was not extant; only extracts from it were to be found in various works. When I asked if it were true, as commonly believed, that printing books from wooden blocks was first done in Chengtu, he added an immediate affirmative. He quoted authorities so easily that he showed he had the information at his fingers' ends. At once he showed me the works, turning up chapter and verse with the greatest ease. One could not but marvel at his memory. Before leaving, he took me through his library; in room after room there were books in cases, chests, stands, and crowded on tables. Yet, no Bible was there.

A few days later he returned the call. I was ready with a fresh list of questions. He simply loved to pass on his knowledge. "Whenever you want information you think I can give, come to me, and I will give you all the assistance it is possible for me to give," he assured me. I showed him our Bible depot and presented him with the one great volume he had never read. Bowing with profuse thanks, we parted, his final word being that he was sending me soon the references I needed fully copied out.

Those on the origin of printing I have read. All go to confirm the current affirmation which

Prof. T. F. Carter, of Columbia University, has so ably summarized in his recent book, "The Invention of Printing in China and Its Spread Westward," that "it was at I-chou (Chengtu) the capital of Shu or Szechwan, according to certain of the earliest authorities, that printing began; it was certainly there that non-Buddhist printing began, and that printing was first mentioned in literature; it was probably also in Shu that the first official printing took place and the printing of paper money." (Chap. 9, page 48.)

This was towards the close of the T'ang dynasty. Liu Pin, a minister of state, saw books for sale in Chengtu, A.D. 881. There is a reference in a Song dynasty history of literature that printing began during the reigns of Wu Tsong and Hsuen Tsong, A.D. 841 to



THE REV. THOMAS TORRANCE AND COLPORTEURS

859; but it adds that there was nothing in the books of these periods alluding to this.

It is supposed that printing sprang from the custom of making rubbings from wooden or stone blocks on which the classics were engraved. Professor Carter, chap. 3, page 12, says that the practice of cutting the classics in stone goes back as far as the year A.D. 175. But in one of our western histories it is said that Wen Ong, of Chengtu, taught the youth of Shu from stone classics in a stone school during the reign of Wen Ti (B.C. 179-157). Chengtu, therefore, occupies a famous place in the history of literature and the printing of it.

Whether Europe borrowed the idea of printing from China or not is a question not yet settled; but we certainly owe to China the art

of papermaking. So China can claim, at least, the priority of printing. In our present circulation of the Scriptures one has the satisfying feeling that, besides spreading abroad a knowledge of the gospel, we are trying to repay this race for by-gone favors. And, surely, it is most appropriate that we should have a distributing center in Chengtu, the earliest home of printing.

The giving of this Bible to Fu An-lan, the honored successor of such a long line of men of letters, it will be seen, was far more than the gift of one friend to another. It betokened on our part that we wished, from a knowledge of the divine Word, a far more glorious future for his people than the past had brought in either their renowned Han or Tang dynasties.

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

EDITORS *The Secretaries*

NEW YORK, APRIL, 1926

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY
Bible House, Astor Place, New York

THE American Bible Society was instituted in 1816 with the sole object of encouraging wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment.

Its program is world-wide and includes the translation of the Scriptures into the languages and common dialects of the people; the publication of the Scriptures in styles suitable and convenient, and at the lowest possible cost; the distribution of the Scriptures throughout the world at cost or free, as a missionary program.

Membership in the Society consists of three classes, each with its special privileges:

1. Annual Members are constituted by an annual subscription of \$5.00.
2. Life Members are constituted by a subscription of \$50.00 at one time.
3. Life Directors are constituted by a subscription of \$150.00 in one or two payments.

Handsome engraved certificates are presented to Life Directors and Life Members.

The Society is supported by the gifts of its members and friends and by the contributions of Christian churches with which the Society has official or semi-official relations.

MARCH MEETING OF THE BOARD

THE eleventh stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and tenth year was

held at the Bible House, Astor Place, New York, on Thursday, March 4, 1926, at 3:30 o'clock, p. m., President E. Francis Hyde in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by General Secretary Haven.

The minutes of the tenth stated meeting of the Board of Managers were presented and approved.

The minutes of the various standing committees were presented and approved. Resolutions recommended by these committees were adopted.

On recommendation of the General Reference Committee, Mrs. Samuel McRoberts was elected a member of the Board of Managers.

The following ministerial members of committees were elected Members for Life of the American Bible Society for services rendered: The Rev. Drs. Oswald T. Allis, Ezra S. Tipple, John H. Raven, Dean Howard C. Robbins, Lewis T. Reed, M. G. G. Scherer, John A. Marquis, James Parker, Frank Mason North, Bishop L. B. Wilson, R. S. Inglis, Frederick H. Knubel, and Chas. Mills.

The Rev. Dr. H. A. Stimson and the Rev. Frederick Wolcott Jackson, the other two ministerial members of committees, have long been Life Members, and were therefore not included in this action.

On recommendation of the Committee on Versions, a new set of plates of the Spanish Version Moderna was authorized, carrying references in a central column and with revised Spanish Maps; also a Brazilian Portuguese Bible in small pica type suitable for pulpit use.

The Recording Secretary reported that, on the persuasion of his colleagues, Treasurer Darlington had consented to the announcement that he was the "friend of the Society" who had donated the portraits of the last three Presidents at the previous meeting of the Board. On motion, it was unanimously carried that the record of the previous meeting be amended by inserting the name of Mr. Darlington in the vote of thanks of the Board for the portraits.

The Treasurer reported the following consignments to the Society's Foreign Agencies during the month of February, 1926; Caribbean, 1,121 volumes, valued at \$32.01; Mexico, 4 volumes, valued at 25 cents; Upper Andes, 29,398 volumes, valued at \$698.09; West Indies, 101 volumes, valued at \$79.66; total volumes, 30,624; total value, \$810.01.

The issues from the Bible House during the month of February were 480,023 volumes.

CASH RECEIPTS IN FEBRUARY, 1926

LEGACIES

Carroll, Estate of David H., late of Baltimore, Md...	70 99
Caston, Robert T., late of Lawrence, Mass.	968 00
Clark, Nelson, late of Berkeley, Cal.	500 00
Dissolution of Pacific Mutual Insurance Co. ..	31 88
Elliott, Isaac Wm., late of Unity, Canada	2,466 00
Lawson, Victor F., late of Chicago, Ill.	10,000 00
Rogers, Alson, late of Boro. of Warren, Pa....	1,000 00
Warner, Anna B., late of Philipstown, N. Y.	30
Williams, Wm. D., late of Hartland, Wis.	25 00
	<u>\$15,062 17</u>

Received on Donation Account	\$ 823 97
	<u>\$3,566 81</u>
HOME AGENCIES	
Atlantic	\$ 5,440 46
Central	1,920 52
Colored People of U. S. A. ..	1,198 06
Eastern	1,946 28
National Capital	469 60
Northwestern	5,875 69
Pacific	2,304 04
South Atlantic	1,875 25
Southwestern	5,180 34
Western	2,549 07
	<u>\$28,759 31</u>

Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. John E., Fund.....	\$1,000 00
	<u>\$1,093 00</u>

RECAPITULATION

Legacies	\$15,062 17
Gifts Subject to Life Interest	39,330 00
Auxiliary Societies on Donation Account	823 97
Auxiliary Societies on Book Account	2,742 84
Home Agencies	29,524 17
Foreign Agencies	500 00
Returns from Scriptures Donated	101 88
Trust Funds Permanent..	1,093 00
	<u>\$89,178 03</u>

GIFTS SUBJECT TO LIFE INTEREST

Amount received during the month	<u>\$39,330 00</u>
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AUXILIARY SOCIETIES

	Rec'd on Donation Account	Rec'd on Book Account
Alabama	\$ 66 10	
Buffalo City and Erie Co., N. Y.	674 29	3 63
Columbia Co., N. Y.		
Columbus, Welsh, Ohio	32 40	287 90
Connecticut		
Emporia and Vicinity Welsh, Kansas \$345 00	1,137 26	69 84
Massachusetts	446 62	
New Hampshire		
New York, N. Y.		
Pike Grove, Wis.	33 50	
Randolph Co., Ill.	300 00	
Schoharie Co., N. Y.	70 22	
Stark Co., West, Ohio	3 98	43
Sussex Co., N. J.		
Utica and Vicinity, Welsh, N. Y.	20 39	
Wayne Co., Neb.	75 25	
	<u>\$2,742 84</u>	

FOREIGN AGENCIES

Caribbean Agency	\$ 500 00
From Home Agencies and Included in Home Agencies Receipts	
Donations from Auxiliary Societies:	
Sussex Co., N. J.	\$500 00
Pennsylvania	441 27
Gifts from Churches	913 27
Gifts from Individuals	460 61

RETURNS FROM SCRIPTURES DONATED

Beecher, Rev. Geo. A., through Northwestern Agency	\$ 25 75
Board of National Missions Pres. Church	53 94
Ganado Mission, Arizona..	11 70
Home Mission Council, Indian Dept., Y. M. C. A., Warm Springs, Ore.	2 57
Johnson, Fred L.	6 00
Rowden, Rev. W. S.	1 22
Swan, Rev. E. S.	70
	<u>\$101 88</u>

TRUST FUNDS PERMANENT

Fisher, Estate of Horace, late of Cincinnati, Ohio..	\$ 93 00
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MISCELLANEOUS

Annuity Account Invested \$	303 92
Annuity Dept.	160 32
Available Investments...	290 00
Bible House Rentals....	10,997 36
Bible Society Record....	10 10
Diffusion of Information..	7 30
Gifts to the Blind from Individuals	4 48
Gifts from Churches....	17,406 94
Gifts from Individuals ..	9,901 41
Income from Available Investments	54 21
Income from Legacies and Gifts, Trust Funds....	10 00
Japan Earthquake Account, from Individuals..	26 00
Manufacturing Credits...	27 35
Scriptures to the Blind...	105 97
Special Annuity Income and Expenses	100 00
The Trade	1,665 29
Trust Funds Subject to Life Interest	300 00
	<u>\$41,370 65</u>
Total Cash Receipts ...	<u>\$130,548 68</u>

JOURNAL ENTRIES

Gifts Subject to Life Interest, Liberty Bonds, etc. received at par value during the month	<u>\$600 00</u>
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CASH STATEMENT FOR FEBRUARY, 1926

GENERAL CASH STATEMENT

RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS	
Balance from January, 1926.....	\$ 49,987 62	Bills of Exchange	\$10,229 14
Gifts from Auxiliaries.....	823 97	General Salaries and Expenses	4,709 05
Auxiliaries	2,742 84	Treasurer's Office—Salaries and Expenses...	1,184 60
Trade	1,665 29	Bible House Expenses.....	3,517 80
Scriptures to the Blind.....	105 97	Appeals	464 09
Manufacturing Credits	27 35	Diffusion of Information.....	1,476 87
Annuity Account	39,330 00	Annuity Department	6,730 80
Bible House Rentals	10,997 36	Bible Society Record.....	177 29
Gifts for Distribution to Blind.....	4 48	Cash reserved for Publication Department..	52,792 27
Gifts from Churches.....	17,406 94	Home Agencies	12,597 43
Gifts from Individuals.....	9,901 41	Foreign Agencies	6,374 32
Bible Society Record.....	10 10	United States Trust Co.—Trust Funds.....	500 00
Japan Earthquake Fund.....	26 00	United States Trust Co.—Annuity Account...	13,742 78
Available Investments.....	290 00	Blind Fund	104 89
Trust Funds Permanent—General Purpose..	1,093 00	Special Annuity Income and Expense Account	159 13
Trust Funds Subject to Life Interest.....	300 00	Miscellaneous Home	503 69
Annuity Account Invested.....	303 92	Miscellaneous Foreign	40 00
Home Agencies	29,524 17	Church Budget Costs.....	265 00
Foreign Agencies	500 00	Payments to Auxiliaries.....	7,158 86
Special Annuity Income and Expense Account	100 00	Legacy Expenses	50
Diffusion of Information.....	7 30	Library	81 39
Income from Legacies and Gifts—Trust Funds	10 00	Broadcasting	40 00
Annuity Department	160 32	Trade Account	63
Income from Available Investment.....	54 21	Surplus	30 29
Legacies	15,062 17	Balance to March, 1926.....	57,655 48
Returns from Scriptures Donated.....	101 88		
	<u>\$180,536 30</u>		<u>\$180,536 30</u>

PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT CASH STATEMENT

Balance from January, 1926.....	\$10,203 14	Publication Department	\$61,580 72
Transferred from General Cash.....	52,792 27	Balance to March, 1926.....	1,414 69
	<u>\$62,995 41</u>		<u>\$62,995 41</u>
Total Cash Balance	\$59,070 17		

BIBLES AND BONDS



The American Bible Society annuity bonds offer careful investors:

1. A convenient, safe and profitable financial investment during life. (Rates run as high as 9%.)
2. The privilege of making an enduring gift to help spread abroad the Word of God. (While other things perish the Word of God endures.)

Funds received by the American Bible Society on the annuity basis help this Society in its important missionary work of *translating, publishing and distributing* the Scriptures "without note or comment" in scores of different languages and dialects.

These activities underlie all Christian work both at home and abroad. Unless we supply "Every man in his own tongue" with the Scriptures, how will the people learn to know and follow their Saviour?

Use the attached coupon to send for our booklet, "Bibles and Bonds," which describes fully our annuity bond offer.

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

BIBLE HOUSE, ASTOR PLACE
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Please send me, without obligation on my part, Booklet No. 62D.

Name:

Address:

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